THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) The Department of Science and Technology has sanctioned a programme recently on an experimental basis in Angara block of Ranchi district. This experiment proposes to develop a science and technology resource base and technical back-up support system in the rural areas with a view to enhance the capability of the people there in implementing some of their development programmes, Broadening of the programme will depend upon the results of this experiment.

Procurement of Voting Machines

2572. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission of India has procured electronic voting machines from B.E.L. and Electronic Corporation of India worth about fifty crores before 1989 general elections;

(b) whether the machines were put to use; if so, the constituencies where these were used and the result regarding performance thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether Government propose to use those machines in any forthcoming elections; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the machines are in working order or require repairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE, AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Seventy-five thousand Electronic Voting Machines each were purchased from M/S Bharat Electronic Ltd., Bangalore and Electronic Corporation of India, Hyderabad in 1989 at a cost of around Rupees Seventy-five crores.

(b) These machines have not been put to use so far.

(c) Election Commission of India has informed that the machines could not be used due to: non-availability of adequate time to impart practical training to polling personnel and to familiarise the electors in the operation of machines, doubts and apprehensions expressed by some political parties and non-availability of sufficient number of machines.

(d) The Election Commission has informed that it has decided to explore the possibility of using the machines in the next general elections. It has also decided to ascertain the views of all National and recognised State Political Parties before taking a final decision in the matter.

(e) According to Election Commission, as and when a decision to put the machines to use is taken, the working condition of the machines at that stage will be got tested.

Infrastructure bottlenecks in Industry

2573. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in 'Times of India' dated 30th November, 1995 captioned 'Weak Infrastructure Worries Industry" according to the latest survey conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that infrasturcture bottlenecks especially in the areas of power roads, telecom, ports and railways do not affect the overall industrial performance in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 44th CII Business outlook Survey relates to the actual performance of the Indian Industry during April-September, 1995 and the forecast for October-March, 1995-96 which covers 271 companies across a spectrum of industry groups both in public and private sectors. The Survey, inter alia, states that infrastructural constraints remain a major bottleneck affecting the overall performance of the industry. Some of the major infrastructural bottlenecks faced by the respondents are in the area of power, roads, telecom, ports and railways.

(c) Remedial steps are taken by the Government on a continuous basis to remove bottlenecks in various sectors of infrastructure through coordination among different Ministries/agencies concerned.

Shortage of Medicines in CGHS Homoeopathic Dispensaries

2574. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CGHS Homoeopathic Dispensaries/Units in Delhi are facing shortage of large number of important medicines;

(b) the names of the Mother Tinctures, Eye Drops, Ointments, Tonics and oils not available in these dispensaries since the last six months, dispensary-wise;

(c) whether Local Purchase of Medicine system also does not exist in these Homoeopathic Dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Generally there is no shortage of important Homoeopathic medicines, as no such complaint has been received from the Dispensary/Units functioning under Central Government Health Scheme (Delhi).

(b) There is no shortage of Mother Tinctures, Ointments, Tonics, and oil in the Central Government Health Scheme dispensaries/Units.

However, there is shortage of Enphersia Eye Drops/C.M.S. for the last six months due to non-supply of the Medicines from the manufactures, C.M.S. Eye drop has not became available in the dispenseries/units from the last week of September, 1995. Euphersia Eye drop has not been supplied by the firm.

(c) and (d) Homoeopathic Medicines are also being purchased locally through Homocopathic Store Depot, and one local chemist (L.R. Bhandari & Sons) who is authorised for supply to 13 dispensaries/ units.

Industrial growth centre in Kesinga, Orissa

2575. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Growth Centres were proposed to be set up in Orissa with an allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs each in the 80s;

(b) whether it is a fact that the industrial growth centre proposed to be set up at Kesinga in Kalahandi district was not provided with this allocation; and

(c) the reason for the non-allocation and whether Government will consider re-allocation of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988 four (4) growth centres are proposed to be set up in Orissa at estimated cost of about Rs. 25-30 crores each. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs each was released during the year 1991-92 towards three growth centres proposed at